

Python - Getting started

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Availability of slides

- All materials are freely available (CC BY) after the lectures:
 - StudIP: 'Python for Life Scientists'
 - GitHub: https://github.com/bpucker/teaching
- Questions: Feel free to ask at any time
- Feedback, comments, or questions: b.pucker[a]tu-bs.de

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How to learn Python?

- Look at the slides, try to understand, ask questions
- Do the exercises
- Practice
- Practice
- Practice
- Repeat the exercises at home



Artificial intelligence

- Artificial intelligence (AI) is able to write Python code
- Quality of the code depends on quality of your prompts
- Basic understanding of Python is necessary to use AI effectively
- Do not use Al support for exercises of first 6 parts
- Use AI for the individual projects



Installing Jupyter Notebook

Linux:

- \$ sudo apt update
- \$ sudo apt install python3-pip python3-dev
- \$ mkdir python course
- \$ cd python_course
- \$ virtualenv python_course
- \$ source python_course/bin/activate
- \$ pip install jupyter
- \$ jupyter notebook

Windows:

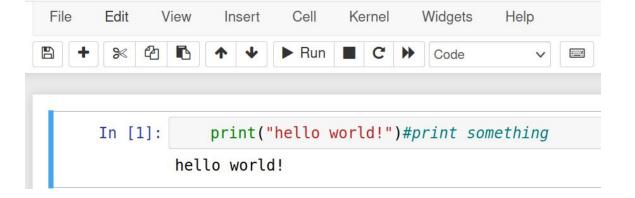
- 1) Install Anaconda
 (https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/how-to-install-anaconda-on-windows/)
- 2) Install Python3 through Anaconda
- 3) Install Jupyter through Anaconda (https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/how-to-install-jupyter-notebook-in-windows/)
- Mac:
 - See instructions above
- ChromeOS:
 - JupyterLab (online): https://jupyter.org/



Starting Jupyter Notebook

- Start Jupyter Notebook
- Create a new file:
 - o 'New'
 - Python3 ipykernel
 - Change name
- Python code is written and executed in Jupyter Notebook

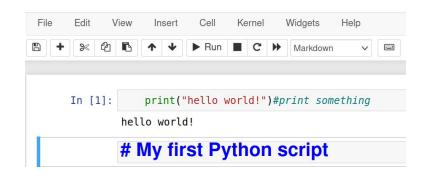




Adding elements to a Jupyter Notebook

Code: you know this already

Header: structure your work/documentation



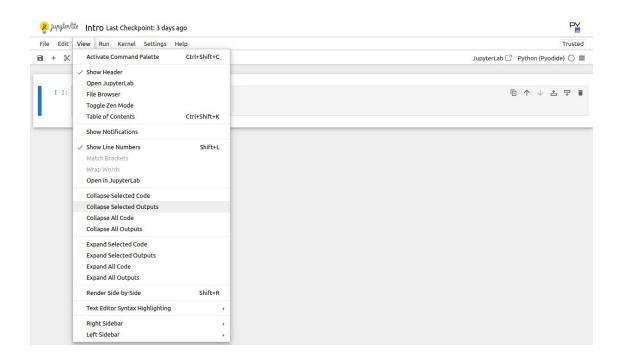
Markdown: comments with specific formatting





Displaying line numbers

- CTRL+M+L
- CTRL+M ... + L
- CTRL + SHIFT + P (Mac)



Simple commands & variable types

- print() allows you to show the results of calculations in the terminal
- Different types of variables can be stored in a list
- Different types of number (int or float)

```
print("test") #print
my_list = ["1", "2", "3", 4, 5, 6 ] #list
my_int = 1 #int
my_float = float(3.1) #float
my_string = str(my_int) #string
```



Comments and structure

- Two ways to add comments:
- '#' rest of the line is comment and ignored by Python
- Triple quotation marks allow comments over multiple lines
- Use ASCII characters only (**no** ä, ö, ü, ß, ...)
- Empty lines are ignored by Python (use space to structure code)



Assignment and comparison

- '='used to assign value to variable
- '==' compares two values/variables
- Variable names may contain characters, underline, and numbers (not at the start)
- Multiple assignments are possible

Out[6]: True

```
a, b = 'test1', 'test2'
a, b, c = 'test1', 'test2', ['not an empty list']
```



Variable type: string

- a, b, c are strings ('str')
- Python allows to check the variable type:
 - type(a)
- Almost all variable types can be converted to string:
 - o str(<VARIABLE>)



Variable types: integer & float

- Two variable types for numbers
 - o Integer = complete number (example: 3)
 - Float = decimal number (example: 3.1415926)
- Important: '.' NOT ',' separates numbers in float
- Some strings can be converted to integer/float
 - \circ My int = int('3')
 - O My_float = float('3.145926')
- Check result via type(<VARIABLE>)



Python as calculator

- Numbers can be used for calculations
 - \circ a = 3
 - \circ b = 2
 - o print(a+b)
 - o print(a*b)
 - o print(a**b)
 - o print(a/b)
 - print(a%b) #modulo division
 - o print(a<b)</pre>
 - o print(a!=b)
- How to calculate roots?
- Interested in more complex math? (NumPy, SciPy)



Variable type: list

- List can contain elements of different types (e.g. strings)
- Elements can be accessed via index
- Index is given in square brackets after the list name:
- Matching your expectation?

```
my_list = [ "one", "two", "three" ]
print( my_list[1] )
```



Indices in Python

Python starts counting at 0!!!

```
my_list = ["one","two","three"]
# 0 1 2
```

Lists can be concatenated

```
Print subset of list
print(new_list[3:])
print(new_list[:3])
print(new_list[3:5])
```

• Two indices: index1=first element to include; index2=first element following the selection



Indices in Python II

- Strings have indexes as well
- -1 points to the last element of a string/list
- -5 points to the 5th element from the end of a string/list

```
a = 'hello world test string!'
print(a[1:])
print(a[5:10])
print(a[:-1])
print(a[-5:-1])
```



Variable type: boolean (True/False)

Already used for comparison:

```
print(1==1)
print(1>1)
print(1==True)
print(True+True)
print(True+False)
```

- Boolean variables can be used for calculations (like numbers)
- Most of the time used only for internal calculations

Brackets

- Two important types of brackets
 - '[]' to generate lists and to access elements via index
 - '()' to transfer arguments to functions

```
a = []
b = "test"
print(b[1])
```

- What are functions?
 - Examples:

```
x = 3.145
str(x)
int(x)
float(x)
```



Exercises - Part1a

- 1.1) Save 3,14159265359 in a variable of type float!
- 1.2) Convert variable from float to integer!
- 1.3) Convert variable back! What happens?
- 1.4) Convert variable to type string!
- 1.5) Save 'Python' in a string variable!
- 1.6) Convert variable type to float! What happens?



Connecting strings / lists

Two lists can be concatenated by using the '+' operator

```
my_list1 = ["one", "two"]
my_list2 = ["3", "4"]
merged_list = my_list1 + my_list2
print(merged_list)
['one', 'two', '3', '4']
```

Two strings can be concatenated by using the '+' operator

```
my_string1 = "hello"
my_string2 = "user"
merged_string = my_string1 + " " + my_string2
print(merged_string)
```

hello user

Mixing different variable types does not work!



Adding content to lists - append()

Individual elements can be added to lists in a more efficient way:

```
THE_list = ["1", "2", "3"]
THE_list.append("4")
print(THE_list)
['1', '2', '3', '4']
```

Exercises - Part1b

- 1.7) Build a sentence based on individual strings!
- 1.8) Find the most efficient way to build this string:

 "hi, user!hi, user!hi

Time for questions!

